

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
RECEIVED

7 - JUL 1938

A.

Borough of Aberystwyth.

# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ended December 31st, 1937.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

*Medical Officer of Health (Part-time Officer):*  
ABRAHAM THOMAS, M.B., B.S. (London).

*Matron of Isolation Hospital:*  
Miss ANNE THOMAS, S.R.N. (Fever and General),  
Cert. C.M.B., R.S.I., Cert. Health Visitor.

*Sanitary and Housing Inspector and Certified Inspector  
of Foods:*

Mr. OSBORNE J. EVANS, M.R.S.I., M.I.H.

*Junior Assistant:*  
Mr. W. A. B. OWEN.

## TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF ABERYSTWYTH.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough for the Year 1937.

### 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	1,141
Population (Census, 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	9,474
1937 Registrar-General's Estimate	...	...	...	...	...	9,547
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,401
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	2,450
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£63,807
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£260

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA. VITAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH.

Dr. Ernest Jones, the County Medical Officer of Health, through his courtesy and kindness, has supplied to me, through his office staff, the vital statistics for the Borough of Aberystwyth for the year 1937, and also comparative statistics for the County of Cardigan and the probable statistics for England and Wales, a kindness I highly appreciate.

### ABERYSTWYTH M.B.

Estimated Resident Population by Registrar-General				9,547
Estimated Resident Population for the County by Registrar-General, 1937				52,770
	Aberystwyth M.B.	Whole County.	England & Wales.	
Number of Live Births	84	600		
Number of Still-births	7	36		
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	8.8	11.4	14.9	
Still-birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.7	0.7	0.6	
Number of Deaths	117	873		
Adjusted Death Rate	11.0	12.5	12.4	
Number of Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	1		
Number of Deaths from other Puerperal Causes	4	7		
Puerperal Death Rate	0.42	12.5	3.11	
Number of Deaths of Infants under one year	4	39		
Death Rate of Infants under one year per 1,000 Live Births	48.0	65.0	58.0	
Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs	7	45		
Death Rate of Tuberculosis of the Lungs	0.73	0.85	probably 0.60	

There were 84 live births in the town of Aberystwyth in 1937, and 117 deaths.

The diseases that accounted for most of the deaths were the following, in order of magnitude:—Heart Dis-

ease, Nephritis, Cerebral Haemorrhage, Cancer, Bronchitis, Lung Tuberculosis and Influenza. Those who died from these were persons past middle age, except the victims of Tuberculosis. These last were between the ages of 15 and 40.

Among Zymotic Diseases, 10 cases of Diphtheria were notified. Thanks to the energetic methods taken whenever this disease shows itself no deaths resulted.

#### *Maternal Mortality.*

Child-birth Fever claimed no victims, but four women died in labour from kidney disease.

#### *Still-births and Infant Mortality.*

Seven is a large number of still-births out of a total of 91 deliveries, but among the children who were born alive, the mortality was very low. The death rate from diarrhoea among children was nil.

From a study of the statistics, it will be seen, therefore, that where the health services can influence the number of deaths, the death rate is very small. The exception is Lung Tuberculosis. This is partly a legacy from the old lead-mining days. That it remains is due to two main reasons, viz., overcrowding, which causes infection of young people, and wrong feeding, which lowers resistance. It is to be noted that overcrowding has not yet been overcome. From the point of view of the prevention of tuberculosis, this is one of the most urgent problems of the Health and Housing Committee.

#### **CRUDE DEATH RATES OF THE MOST FATAL DISEASES**

		Aberyst- wyth M.B.	Whole County.	England & Wales.
Heart Disease	...	2.1	4.89 probably	2.7
Cancer	...	1.05	1.72	1.6
Tuberculosis of the Lungs	...	0.73	0.85	0.60
Nephritis	...	1.57	0.95	0.39
Pneumonia	...	0.52	0.66	0.70
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	1.15	1.15	0.66
Bronchitis	...	0.94	0.51	0.39
Influenza	...	0.63	0.57	0.45
Measles	...	—	0.19	0.02
Number of Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	—	2	

	Aberyst- wyth M.B.	Whole County.	England & Wales.
Death Rate of Whooping Cough ... ..	—	0.037	„ 0.04
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ...	—	5	
Death Rate of Diarrhoea ...	—	8.0	„ 5.8

### SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no changes to report and the arrangements are the same as in the past year.

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities:—

Dr. Ernest Jones, the County Medical Officer of Health, undertakes the bulk of the Bacteriological examinations.

Blood sera and other specimens are sent to the Clinical Research Association.

The water examinations are carried out by Professor T. Campbell James, D.Sc., and Mr. S. B. Thomas, M.Sc., respectively, the former testing the water for its acidity and plumbo solvency action, the latter the bacteriological examinations.

Professor T. Campbell James, M.A., D.Sc., Professor of Chemistry at the Edward Davies Chemical Laboratories, Aberystwyth, reports as follows:—

“Since my last report, the water in the service reservoirs and as delivered through the service pipes to various parts of the Borough, has been kept under continuous observation. The precautions taken to diminish the acidity of the water have been effective and in consequence plumbo solvent action has been kept low.

In the service reservoirs, pH has varied between 6.2 and 7.0, which indicates that the water is practically free from acidity. In the Penparcau district the water is slightly alkaline in character owing to the long length of concrete-lined pipes through which it passes.

Typical results are as follows, in each case the lead content of free-running samples of water has been determined:—

Date.	Place.	pH.	Lead (parts per 10 milln.).
1938—			
24th Jan.	Alexandra Hall	6.8	0.5
31st Jan.	Brynymor-road	7.0	0.5
1st Feb.	Penparcau-road	7.2	undetectable
2nd Feb.	Sea View-place	6.8	do.
15th Mar.	Caradog-road	6.8	3.0
16th Mar.	North-parade	6.0	2.0
16th Mar.	Custom House-street	6.0	1.0
17th Mar.	Cambrian-street	6.5	1.5
25th Mar.	Caradog-road	6.4	1.5

In no case does the lead content exceed 3 parts per 10 million, this number being below the danger limit.

Experiments are in progress wherein samples of ternary lead alloy and tellurium lead are being compared with ordinary lead for resistance to the water supplied from the service reservoirs, the results of which will be communicated to you in due course.

T. CAMPBELL JAMES."

The following is the Bacteriological Report presented by Mr. S. B. Thomas, M.Sc., from the Dairy Bacteriological Laboratory of the University College of Wales:—

"During the course of the year 1937, 57 samples of water from the Borough supply have been tested bacteriologically. Over 82 per cent. of these samples were satisfactory in all respects. A few samples taken during July-September were not entirely satisfactory, and I hope to be able to find the cause of this slight abnormality during the coming summer if such conditions occur again.

S. B. THOMAS."

(b) Ambulance Facilities:—No change.

- (a) Infectious Diseases: An old motor ambulance. A new ambulance has been estimated for.
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases: A Morris Commercial 17.9 h.p. ambulance. The members of the strong local unit of the St. John Ambulance Association assist in the conveyance of the Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

(c) Nursing in the Home—

- (a) General: The Nursing Association (Voluntary) provides a thoroughly-trained District Nurse, as well as a Certified Midwife for the Town.
- (b) Infectious Diseases: Patients from the Borough are admitted free to the Isolation Hospital.

(d) The Clinics provided by the County Council are:—

- (a) A Maternity and Child Welfare.
- (b) Dental.
- (c) Ophthalmic.
- (d) Venereal Disease Centre.

A Clinic for Tuberculosis Disease under the King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial is held each Monday at the Aberystwyth Infirmary by Dr. Kenyon Davies, the Tuberculosis Physician for the County.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary—

The General Hospital (partly endowed, partly voluntary) contains 40 beds, including private rooms and a children's ward.

828 in-patients were admitted during 1937.

321 from within the Borough.

443 from the County Districts.

64 from outside the County.

26 remained from the previous year, making the total number treated, 854.

At the Annual Meeting held on the 11th February, 1938, the cost of extensions to the present buildings was referred to by the Chairman, the figures having increased from £32,500 to £37,500. Over £28,000 has already been received. The building is expected to be completed by the end of the summer. The Hospital, when completed, will be a thoroughly up-to-date one, with a fine children's ward and an X-ray room. The accommodation, including the private rooms and the children's ward, will be increased by 40 beds.

The Sick Poor can obtain either Subscriber's tickets or tickets from Lady Visitors appointed under the Downie's Trust Scheme.



The Fever Hospital, erected in 1913, contains two wards of eight beds. Ten Scarlet Fever cases were admitted during the year, seven Diphtheria and three Typhoid cases. The Typhoid cases were nursed in the Diphtheria Ward. The first patient, a middle-aged lady who resided in South-road, adjoining the Harbour, proved to be a severe case of Typhoid. She was admitted to the Isolation Hospital and undoubtedly her life was saved through the skill and experience of the Matron. The Matron herself, however, contracted the disease, and the Doctors despaired at one time of her life, but fortunately she made a recovery. The third case was a younger lady living in a house in Edgehill-road, an area in which no previous cases have occurred. She was nursed by the Matron and made a good recovery. No clue was obtained as to the primary origin of the disease except in the case of the Matron, who contracted the illness when nursing the first patient.

The Smallpox Hospital is a well-isolated residence at Alltglaise,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town, with a very difficult road approach.

#### SECTION C.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector apart from work under the Housing Act, 1930 (Five-Year Programme), as amended by the Housing Act, 1936.

##### *Inspections—*

No. of dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	203
No. of dwellings inspected under the Housing Act Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	63
No. of houses inspected after cases of Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	27
No. of premises inspected re provision of Dustbins (Aberystwyth Corporation Act, 1913)	...	...	...	...	...	183
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	244
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	...	39
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	63
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	503
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	85
Stables, Manure Pits, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	11

Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	22
Premises re Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	...	7
Courts, Back Roads, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	73
Shops, Food Stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	294
Miscellaneous Inspections, including inspection of ships entering Harbour, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	197
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	2072
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	718
						<hr/> 2790 <hr/>

*Office Work—*

No. of complaints received and investigated	...	182
No. of notices, letters, circulars, etc., sent out with respect to the various matters requiring attention	...	503
No. of Statutory Notices served	...	14

Other Office Work includes interviews, filing of records, notices, etc., entering up the numerous Registers, and other usual office work.

Description of some of the work carried out apart from periodical inspection of Registered Premises such as Bakeries, Factories, Workshops, etc., and the amount of extra work under the Five-Year Programme (Clearance Orders, etc).

*Nuisances Abated (Public Health Acts)—*

No. of Choked Drains attended to	...	29
No. of Defective Drains attended to	...	15
No. of Defective W.C. Cisterns and Fittings	...	28
No. of Hopper Pans replaced with Pedestal Pans	...	14
No. of Defective Scullery Sinks renewed or repaired	...	8
No. of Insanitary Lip-traps replaced with Stone Ware Gullies	...	17
No. of Premises with insufficient sanitary accom- modation	...	3
No. of Houses not kept in a clean and satisfactory condition	...	5
No. of Repairs to Premises, such as Defective Roofs, etc.	...	56
No. of Fowl-houses not kept in a satisfactory con- dition	...	1



No. of Accumulations of Rubbish, etc. attended to	13
No. of Premises where animals are kept requiring attention	3
Repairs, Provision of W.C.'s, etc., at Shops	3

Other work carried out as a result of house-to-house inspections under Housing Regulations.

This comprises the usual defects, such as:—

Provision of properly ventilated larders; lack of sufficient air space; darkness; dampness due to defective roof, walls, etc; absence of readily accessible water supply; absence of or defective proper and sufficient sanitary conveniences; defective drains; external and internal repairs	323
--	-----

Description of work carried out at Premises requiring periodical inspection:—

Bakehouses—

Notice to cleanse and limewash	2
--------------------------------	---

Factories and Workshops—

Cleansed and limewashed	6
Improvements	3
Other nuisances attended to	2

Food Stores, including Ice Cream Premises—

Cleansed	2
Suggested Improvements	5

Cowsheds and Dairies—

Cleansed and limewashed	4
Improvements in Cowsheds	3
Improvements in Dairies	1

Rats—

Premises treated	7
------------------	---

The Swimming Baths in Bath-street are, as reported in the last Annual Report, so defective and antiquated that in the interest of public health and the welfare of the town, they should be entirely overhauled or reconstructed and provided with modern appliances for the purification of the water and other purposes.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs—

Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs, including information as to :—

1. The number of Council Houses found to be infested, 1  
Disinfected, 1.  
The number of other houses found to be infested, 3.  
Disinfected, 3.
2. The methods employed for freeing infested house from bed bugs :—Having carried out numerous experiments with the various methods, it has been found that repeated fumigation with sulphur candles, followed by efficient cleansing, has proved to be the most effective. Owing to the necessity of skilled operators and the serious risk entailed, experiments have not been carried out with Hydrocyanide or Orthodichlorbenzene.
3. The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses :—Where doubt exists as to the possible infestation of the belongings of tenants who are to be re-housed in Council Houses, all bedding, etc., is subjected to steam disinfection; the furniture subjected to a thorough fumigation, to be followed by a thorough cleansing, and, where practicable, all infested furniture has been destroyed by consent of the tenants. The question of compensation has not arisen, for the tenants, being anxious to obtain Council Houses, were prepared to undergo this expenditure.
4. All the work of disinfection is carried out by or under the supervision of the Public Health Department of the Local Authority.

### *Schools—*

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools, especially the Public Elementary Schools, are satisfactory.

### *Housing Statistics—*

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—  
(1) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 266

(b) No. of Inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	562
(2) (a) No. of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	63
(b) No. of Inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	...	...	156
(3) No. of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...					37
(4) No. of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...				65
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :—						
Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	72
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—						
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—						
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...		1
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—						
(a) By Owners	...	...	...			1
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...		Nil

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	13
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil

## C. Proceeding under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	11
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	5

## D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil

*Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding—*

(a) (i) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year ... ..	25
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	26
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	188
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	5

(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	6
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		33
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it advisable to report	... ..	

In respect to the above-mentioned cases of overcrowding, as above stated, 6 families have been re-housed. The position with regard to the remaining 26 families is as follows:—

8 families reside in houses which are being dealt with under the Slum Clearance Programme, and will be re-housed under same.

18 families still overcrowded and of these:—4 are on the present short list for Corporation houses and therefore will shortly be re-housed. 2 are in Corporation houses and plans have been approved of and arrangements made for the erection of two four-bedroom type houses to re-house these two families. 6 are residing in privately-owned houses and will be dealt with in due course, one of these being an owner-occupier. 6 are living in Corporation houses, and transfer of tenancies may possibly be arranged.

#### **SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

##### *(a) Milk Supply—*

Quarterly sampling under the Accredited Milk Scheme was carried out, together with the administration of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1923 and 1936, which includes the inspection of farms and dairies.

*(b) Meat and Other Foods—*

The Sanitary Inspector reports that the animals slaughtered at the Abattoir during the year were as follows:—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.				
	Cattle including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ... ..	598	44	7852	1201
Number inspected ... ..	587	39	7768	1187
All Diseases except <i>Tuberculosis</i> —				
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	4	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	43	—	53	9
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	7%	—	0.7%	0.7%
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> —				
Whole carcases condemned	2	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	1.3%	—	—	0.3%

# SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	10	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	10	7	Nil
Enteric Fever ... .. (including Paratyphoid)	3	3	Nil
Puerperal Fever ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	Nil	1
Pneumonia ... ..	8	Nil	Nil
Other Diseases (gener- ally notifiable) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Diseases (notifi- able locally) ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas ... ..	2	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—
	34	20	1
	—	—	—



# ANALYSIS OF CASES NOTIFIED.

	Under 1 year.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 and over
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	5	1	3	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	1	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—
(including Paratyphoid)												
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Other Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(generally notifiable)												
Other Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(notifiable locally)												
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	—	2	1	—	2	11	4	3	4	1	6	—

Antitoxin is freely supplied for all Diphtheria cases. The Isolation Hospital, as already stated, is inadequate—sick cases of Typhoid and Diphtheria are admitted to the same ward. Influenza cases are treated at home by the patient's medical men. No action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation.

TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	5	4	—	1	2	1	—	—
35	3	2	—	—	1	1	1	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	7	0	1	5	2	1	0

Notification of Tuberculosis cases is very general throughout the Borough. Cases are sent to the Tuberculosis Clinic to be examined by the Tubercular Physician for the County.

*The Port Sanitary Authorities (Infectious Diseases)  
Regulations, 1920.*

One vessel entered the Harbour during 1937.

Total tonnage, 84 tons.

The Sanitary Inspector inspected the ship and reported all correct.

I append to the Report the Tabular Report on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

TABLE I.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. YEAR ENDING 1937.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including factory laundries)...	38	3	Nil
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	164	8	Nil
Workplaces (other than outworkers pre- mises) ... ..	42	2	Nil
Total ... ..	244	13	Nil

TABLE II.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

	Defects Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories.	No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.				
Want of cleanliness (limewashing, etc.) ... ..	8	8	—	—
Want of ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	2	2	—	—
Sanitary accommodation (insufficient, unsuitable or defective, etc.) ... ..	3	3	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts ... ..	—	—	—	—
Total ... ..	13	13	—	—

The majority of the Tables embodied in this Report were compiled by the Sanitary Inspector, and they testify to his various activities in the different spheres of Public Health Administration.

I especially wish to commend his excellent work in connection with the Housing Schemes and Slum Clearance Areas. Practically all the details required for the Slum Clearance Areas Inquiries were drawn up by him, and his efforts were very successful, as nearly all the areas were confirmed.

I am happy to have such an efficient colleague with thorough knowledge and varied experience to assist me in the discharge of the sanitary duties of the Borough. At all times I have found him exceedingly active and efficient in the discharge of his duties. With his assistance, I feel I may be able to carry on the duties of Medical Officer of Health for another year.

In my last Annual Report I highly commended the work of Mr. W. A. Bowen as a Junior Assistant in the Sanitary Inspector's Office. This year I record the Sanitary Inspector's opinion of his work:—

“Within the last year or so an enormous amount of new legislation has been introduced such as the Public Health Act, 1936, Housing Act, 1936, etc., and further new and important legislation is about to be enforced such as the new Factory Act, Food Bill, etc. Arising therefrom, an enormous amount of new registers, forms, notices, etc., have to be obtained and recorded, and the preparation of numerous returns, the filing of records, etc., have increased the office routine to a very large degree. This increase of duties and office work necessitated additional accommodation and assistance, and the appointment of Mr. W. A. Bowen as Junior Assistant in the Public Health Department has been of very great assistance to me. It is pleasing to record that Mr. Bowen is making very good progress. During the last nine months he has attended Cardiff Technical College on one day in each week, and has been successful in the two Internal Examinations of the College, obtaining First-class Certificates in each case, and on the completion of the Course will sit for the third Internal Examination. This, together with the private coaching and the practical ex-



perience he obtains in my department, will ably prepare him for the examination of the Royal Sanitary Institute to qualify as a Sanitary Inspector."

In conclusion, I wish, as to the start of this Report, to thank my friend and colleague Dr. Ernest Jones, the County Medical Officer of Health, for his readiness at all times to co-operate with me and for his help in all matters pertaining to the public health of the Borough. I especially mention his excellent work as Medical Officer of the Elementary Schools and his careful inspection of all sore throats and septic cases, together with the bacteriological tests, to restrict the spread of infectious diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ABRAHAM THOMAS, J.P., T.D.  
Medical Officer of Health.

Aberystwyth,  
June 22nd, 1938.

